

San Marino, Huntington Library, HM 00002

Description: ff. 145 (foliated 6-150) - Bound, ca. 1832, in English light brown calf, gold tooled; marbled endpapers; edges tinted green; rebacked, with original green morocco labels laid down, the upper with the volume number "10" of the Devonshire plays, folio series, and the lower label with the Devonshire crest. A series of former stabbing holes shows an irregular pattern of overcast stitching, out as far as 12 mm. from the gutter, and done in a careless manner, running through all 13 quires in one operation. - Written in England, the earliest known complete manuscript of this text, in 1591 according to the explicit on f. 150v. Art. 1, with the date "4 June 1600" on f. I and the name "Georgium Bellin" on f. IV verso, was copied from Harley 2013 in the nineteenth century. Below the explicit on f. 150v, in a more formal script, possibly by a different person, but difficult to see clearly due to discoloration from a reagent, another note with the same date of 1591 and the name of the copyist (?), "By me Edward Gregorie scholler at Bunburye the yeare of our lord god 1591." But see also Lumiansky and Mills, xi, xvi n. 18. Also on f. 150v, ca. 1600, the name "Richarde Gregorie" twice; on f. 41, s. XVII, "John Egerton esq.," probably not one of the first three Earls of Bridgewater, all of whom bore that name, but rather another member of the Egerton family, who possessed properties in Cheshire. J. Payne Collier in the 1831 edition of his *History of English Dramatic Poetry*, 2:227 states that the manuscript had been "only very recently" discovered and that it had come into the possession of J. B. Nichols, esq., F.S.A. (presumably John Bowyer Nichols, 1779-1863, of *The Gentleman's Magazine*) from an unnamed gentleman of Cheshire; Nichols' name is omitted in the 1879 edition. It was first suggested by W. W. Greg, "Bibliographical and Textual Problems of the English Miracle Cycles," *The Library* 5 (1914) 170 that the modern transcription from Harley 2013 on ff. I-XII (paper watermarked 1829) was supplied by J. Payne Collier, presumably meaning that Collier obtained the transcription or had it done, rather than copying it himself, as the script does not resemble other examples of Collier's handwriting in the Huntington Library. By 1836, when Collier printed the *Antichrist* pageant (art. 23) in his *Five Miracle Plays*, the manuscript had passed into the collection of the Duke of Devonshire; it was temporarily mislaid and not available to H. Deimling for his 1892 edition. Listed in the typescript "Alphabetical Handlist of the Titles of the Kemble-Devonshire Collection of English Plays," compiled 1906-07, vol. 1, p. 92. - C. W. Dutschke with the assistance of R. H. Rouse et al., *Guide to Medieval and Renaissance Manuscripts in the Huntington Library* (San Marino, 1989). De Ricci, 37-38. *Aspects of Medieval England*, n. 29 open at f. 24.

Number of Parts: 1 - *Number of Images Available:* 0

Direct Link: http://ds.lib.berkeley.edu/HM00002_43

Language: English *Country:* England *Century:* 16th

Gallery of Images for this Manuscript: http://dpg.lib.berkeley.edu/webdb/dsheh/heh_br?CallNumber=HM+2

Part 1: ff. 6-150v

Description: - Paper - Pot with initials "PDB" similar to Briquet 12793, Bayonne 1583 and to Heawood 3576; another, with initials "PGG," similar to Heawood 3578, and other variations - 196 x 293 mm - 1¹²(-1 through 5) 2¹⁴ 3-12¹²^12# 13⁴. 38-52 lines; vertical rules usually in lead along the inner margin and in dry point along the outer.

Country: England

Cardinal point:

Region:

City:

Assigned Date: s. XVI^{ex}

Searchable Date Range: 1585 - 1599

Dated by scribe: No

Inscribed Date: 1591

Document: No

Number of Scribes:

Scribe(s): Edward Gregorie?

Script: Secretary; Italic; Semi-italic

Notes: The name "Georgium Bellin" on f. IV verso, was copied from Harley 2013 in the nineteenth century. Latin

Number of Texts: 1

Text 1: ff. 6-150v

Title: Chester Mystery Cycle

Title: Drapers Playe. Incipit pagina secunda qualiter deus docuit mundum, Deus.

Language(s): English

Incipit: Ego sum alpha et omega i, primus et novissimus. I god moste of maiestye/ in whom begininge none may bee

Explicit: therfore excuse you withowten were/ I may not well I wysse. Deo gratias. This ys the laste of all the xxiitiie pageantes and playes, played by the xxiitiie craftsmen of the Cyttie of Chester wrytten in the yeare of our lord god 1591 and in the xxxiiiith yeare of the reigne of our soveraigne Ladye queene Elizabeth, whom god preserve for ever Amen. Finis. [added in a different script:] By me Edward Gregorie scholler at Bunburye the yeare of our lord god 1591.

Notes: IMEV 716. R. M. Lumiansky and D. Mills, eds., *The Chester Mystery Cycle*. EETS ss 3 (London 1974), using this manuscript as the base text, collated against the 5 other manuscripts; HM 2 described in the introduction, pp. xii-xiv and in the notes, pp. 533-47. See also *The Chester Mystery Cycle: a reduced facsimile of Huntington Library MS 2 with an introduction by R. M. Lumiansky and D. Mills* (San Marino and the University of Leeds 1980). Other complete editions of the Chester cycle, including the Banns, by T. Wright for the Shakespeare Society (1843-47) and by H. Deimling and Dr. Matthews for EETS es 62, 115 (1892, 1916); for a list of the partial editions, see Lumiansky and Mills, EETS ss 3, pp. xli-xlii. This manuscript lacking the first 5 leaves (as shown by contemporary foliation); the missing text (the Banns and Play 1) supplied in HM 2 on the introductory ff. I-XII from London, Brit. Lib., Harley 2013 in the nineteenth century.